Rev amping of **EPF**

1043. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken up a project of revamping the Employees' Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the revamping is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has taken up the task of modernization through the Project 'Re-inventing EPF India' involving Business Process Re-engineering, re-tooling of Accounting System and development of comprehensive Application Software towards achieving organisational goals including settlement of claims within two to three days and service to members from any geographical location in the country. This project also provides for the allotment of a permanent and unique number i.e. National Social Security Number (NSSN) to Provident Fund members for independent identification.

(c) As per schedule, the project is to be implemented by April, 2004 in the six pilot centres.

Provident Fund contribution by private sector employees

1044. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in private sector who are making contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund as on March 31,2003;

(b) the arrears that the employers have to pay towards E.P.F.;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure that arrears are cleared during the next three years; and

(d) the steps proposed against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) As on 31.03.2003, the total of employees who are members of the Employees' Provident Fund are 394.98 lakhs.